



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STAGE ONE AND STAGE TWO EMERGENCIES DECLARED AS DEMAND SOARS California ISO Strongly Urges Conservation

(Folsom, CA) The California Independent System Operator (California ISO) issued a Stage One Emergency at 1:35 p.m. today, July 2, 2001, and a stage two emergency at 2:40 p.m. as operating reserves dipped below five percent. The state's appetite for power is 2,000 megawatts over forecasts due to temperatures that are 5 to 6 degrees hotter than meteorologists predicted. Because the heat wave is regional in nature, levels of imported power have decreased as other states, especially those in the southwest, also cope with high demand for power. In addition, 1,500 megawatts of imported power was also reduced when a two-unit power plant that serves Southern California tripped offline over the weekend.

The expected peak demand on the transmission system is expected to reach about 40,000 megawatts around 4:00 p.m. today. Consumers can help reduce the strain on the power grid by conserving electricity today, especially during the peak afternoon hours. The California ISO requests that customers voluntarily reduce their use of electricity to prevent more severe curtailment measures.

Powerful Habits at Home:

- Set your thermostat at 78-80 degrees when home, 85 or off when away.
- Avoid using appliances during the peak usage period 8:00 am to 8:00 pm
- Turn off your pool pump and avoid outdoor watering during peak periods.

Powerful Habits at Work:

- Turn off computer monitor when you are away from your desk
- Turn off half the overhead lighting.
- Set the thermostat at 78-80

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STAGE ONE-2-2-2

Today’s Stage One and Two declarations, expected to be in effect until 6:00 p.m., enables the California ISO to access emergency resources to help maintain operating reserves. A Stage Two is declared when reserves drop below five percent. At this level, large commercial customers that have signed up to voluntarily curtail power during high demand days will be asked to do so. If an operating reserve shortfall of less than one-and-a-half percent is unavoidable, Stage Three is initiated. Involuntary curtailments of service to customers including “rotating blackouts” are possible during this emergency declaration. The California ISO’s Electrical Emergency Plan (EEP) is part of the state’s enhanced reliability standards enacted by landmark legislation Assembly Bill 1890 that led to the restructuring of California’s electricity industry.

The California ISO is charged with managing the flow of electricity along the long-distance, high-voltage power lines that make up the bulk of California’s transmission system. The not-for-profit public-benefit corporation assumed the responsibility in March, 1998, when California opened its energy markets to competition and the state’s investor-owned utilities turned their private transmission power lines over to the California ISO to manage. The mission of the California ISO is to safeguard the reliable delivery of electricity, facilitate markets and ensure equal access to a 25,526 circuit mile “electron highway.”

Conservation tips and continuous system condition updates are available on the web at www.caiso.com and the California Flex Your Power website is at www.flexyourpower.ca.gov

Other helpful contacts:

Pacific Gas and Electric	415/973-5930
Southern California Edison	626/302-2255
San Diego Gas and Electric	877/866-2066

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